

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments, and the following remarks, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application.

Claims 1-12 are now pending in this application, with Claim 1 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled Claim 13-23, and amended Claims 1 and 9.


Claims 1-12 are allowed. While Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 herein, Applicant submits that the change does not affect the allowability of the allowed claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 1-12 remain allowable.

Claims 13, 22/13, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,920,414 (Miyachi, et al.). Those claims have been cancelled, rendering the rejection moot.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and allowance of this application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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